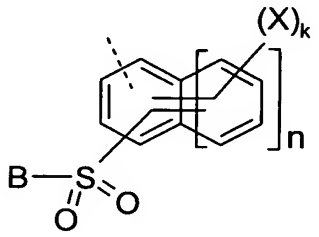
We claim:

1. A process for dyeing leather with at least one dye F which has at least one alkaline-activable group of the formula A;



(A)

where

---- denotes the bond to the dye molecule;
X is an electron-attracting radical,
k is 1, 2 or 3,
n is 0 or 1 and
B is a $CH=CH_2$ group or a CH_2-CH_2-Q group, where Q is an alkaline-detachable group,

which comprises treating the leather with an aqueous float comprising at least one dye F at a pH of not less than 7.5.

2. A process according to claim 1, wherein at least one radical X in the formula A is an SO_3H group.

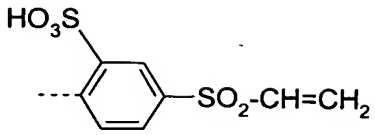
3. A process according to claim 1 or 2, wherein B in the formula A is $CH=CH_2$, a CH_2-CH_2-O-SO_3H group or a CH_2-CH_2-O-C(O)CH_3 group.

4. A process according to any preceding claim, wherein the group A is attached to the dye molecule via an -NH- or -N=N- group.

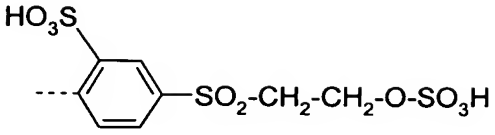
5. A process according to claim 4, wherein the dye F is selected from dyes of the phthalocyanine series, anthraquinone dyes, azo dyes, formazan dyes, dioxazine dyes, actidine dyes, xanthene dyes, polymethine dyes, stilbene dyes, sulfur dyes and triarylmethane dyes.

6. A process according to any preceding claim, wherein n = 0.

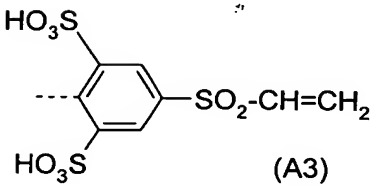
7. A process according to claim 6, wherein the radical A is selected from the following radicals A1 to A12:



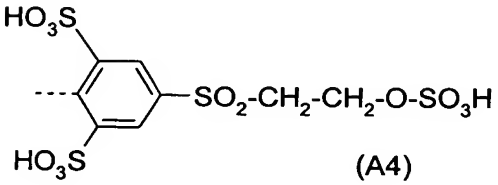
(A2)



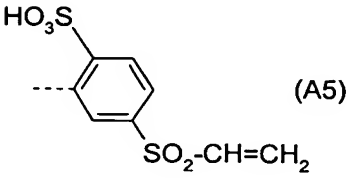
(A1)



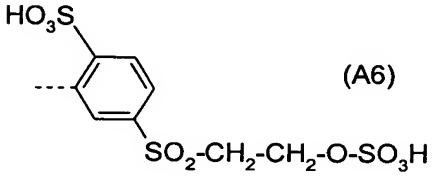
(A3)



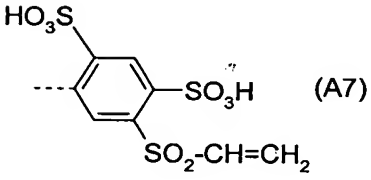
(A4)



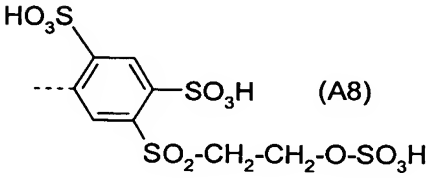
(A5)



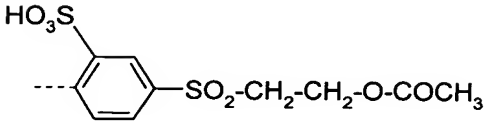
(A6)



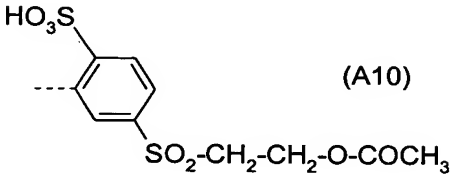
(A7)



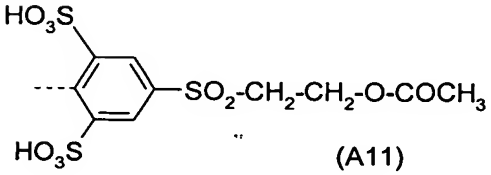
(A8)



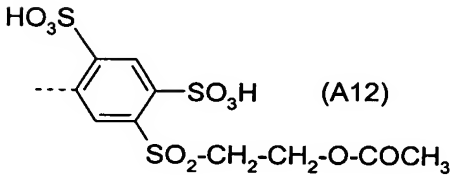
(A9)



(A10)



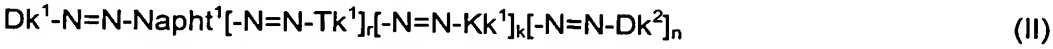
(A11)



(A12)

8. A process according to any preceding claim, wherein the dye F is selected from the dyes of the general formulae I to XV:

(I)



(II)

Dk^1-N=N-$Napht^1$-N=N-Tk^1-N=N-Kk^1-N=N-Tk^2-N=N-$Napht^2$-N=N-Dk^2 (III)

Dk^1-N=N-Kk^1-N=N-Tk^1-N=N-Kk^2-N=N-Dk^2 (IV)

Dk^1-N=N-$[P\text{-}N{=}N\text{-}]_p Napht^1[\text{-}N{=}N\text{-}R]_r$-NH-$Tr^1$-NH-$Dk^2$ (V)

Dk^1-N=N-P-NH-Tr^1-NH-R-N=N-Dk^2 (VI)

Dk^1-N=N-$Napht^1$-N=N-Tk^1-N=N-P-NH-Tr^1-NH-Dk^2 (VII)

Dk^1-N=N-$Napht^1$-NH-Tr^1-NH-P-NH-Tr^2-NH-$Napht^2$-N=N-Dk^2 (VIII)

Dk^1-N=N-$Napht^1$-NH-Tr^1-NH-Tk^1-NH-Tr^2-NH-$Napht^2$-N=N-Dk^2 (IX)

$Dk^1[\text{-}N{=}N\text{-}L]_k$-NH-$Tr^1$-NH-M-N=N-$Napht^1$-N=N-P-NH-$Tr^2$-NH-$[R\text{-}N{=}N\text{-}]_n Dk^2$ (X)

Dk^1-N=N-Kk^1-N=N-Tk^1-NH-Tr^1-NH-Dk^2 (XI)

Dk^1-N=N-$[P\text{-}N{=}N\text{-}]_p$R-N=N-$Kk^1[\text{-}N{=}N\text{-}Dk^2]_n$ (XII)

Dk^1-N=N-Pyr-A (XIII)

Kk^3-N=N-Tk^1-N=N-Kk^1-N=N-A (XIV)

Dk^1-N=N-P-N=N-Kk^1-N=N-R-N=N-Dk^2 (XV)

where

k, n, p and r	are independently 0 or 1 subject to the condition that k+n+r in the formula II is = 1, 2 or 3;
m	is 0, 1 or 2;
Dk^1, Dk^2	independently represent a radical derived from an aromatic amine or denotes a group of the formula A subject to the condition that in each of the formulae I - XII and XV at least one of Dk^1 and Dk^2 represents a radical of the formula A
Kk^1, Kk^2	independently represent a mono-, di- or trivalent aromatic radical which derives from benzene, naphthalene, pyrazole, quinoline,

diphenylamine, diphenylmethane, pyrimidine, pyridine or diphenyl ether and which may optionally comprise one or more of the following radicals as substituents: SO_3H, COOH, CN, $CONH_2$, OH, NH_2, NO_2, halogen, C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-hydroxyalkyl, carboxy-C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxy, C_1-C_4-alkylamino, C_1-C_4-dialkylamino, C_1-C_4-alkylaminocarbonyl, C_1-C_4-dialkylaminocarbonyl, C_1-C_4-alkylcarbonylamino, N-(C_1-C_4-alkylcarbonyl)-N-(C_1-C_4-alkylcarbonyl)amino, C_1-C_4-alkylaminocarbonyloxy, C_1-C_4-dialkylaminocarbonyloxy, C_1-C_4-alkylaminocarbonylamino, C_1-C_4-dialkylaminocarbonylamino, phenylaminocarbonyloxy, phenylaminocarbonylamino, C_1-C_4-alkoxycarbonylamino, C_1-C_4-hydroxy-C_1-C_4-alkylamino, carboxy-C_1-C_4-alkylamino, phenylcarbonylamino, C_1-C_4-alkylsulfonyl, hydroxy-C_1-C_4-alkylsulfonyl, C_1-C_4-alkylaminosulfonyl, C_1-C_4-alkylsulfonylamino, phenylsulfonyl, phenylsulfonylamino, formamide, a radical of the formula $SO_2NR^{56}R^{57}$, where R^{56} and R^{57} independently represent hydrogen, C_1-C_4-alkyl, formyl, C_1-C_4-alkylcarbonyl, C_1-C_4-alkyloxycarbonyl, NH_2-CO or C_1-C_4-alkylaminocarbonyl, C_1-C_4-alkylaminosulfonylamino, di-C_1-C_4-alkylaminosulfonylamino, phenylsulfonylamino which may be substituted on the phenyl ring by one or two substituents selected from C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxy or halogen, or 5- or 6-membered heterocyclyl, which is optionally substituted by 1, 2 or 3 of the following radicals: OH, halogen, C_1-C_4-alkyl or phenyl, 5-membered aromatic heterocyclyl optionally bearing on the nitrogen a phenyl or naphthyl group which can optionally comprise one or two of the following radicals: OH, SO_3H, C_1-C_4-alkyl, and/or C_1-C_4-alkoxy;

Kk^3 is a monovalent radical which derives from benzene, pyrimidine, pyridine or naphthalene and which optionally comprises 1 or 2 hydroxysulfonyl groups and optionally 1, 2 or 3 further substituents selected from SO_3H, COOH, CN, $CONH_2$, OH, NH_2, NO_2, halogen, C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-hydroxyalkyl, carboxy-C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxy, C_1-C_4-alkylamino, C_1-C_4-dialkylamino, C_1-C_4-alkylaminocarbonyl, C_1-C_4-dialkylaminocarbonyl, C_1-C_4-alkylcarbonylamino, N-(C_1-C_4-alkylcarbonyl)-N-(C_1-C_4-alkylcarbonyl)amino, C_1-C_4-alkylaminocarbonyloxy, C_1-C_4-dialkylaminocarbonyloxy, C_1-C_4-alkylaminocarbonylamino, C_1-C_4-dialkylaminocarbonylamino, phenylaminocarbonyloxy, phenylaminocarbonylamino, C_1-C_4-alkoxycarbonylamino, C_1-C_4-hydroxy-C_1-C_4-alkylamino, carboxy-C_1-C_4-alkylamino,

phenylcarbonylamino, C_1-C_4-alkylsulfonyl, hydroxy-C_1-C_4-alkylsulfonyl, C_1-C_4-alkylaminosulfonyl, C_1-C_4-alkylsulfonylamino, phenylsulfonyl, phenylsulfonylamino, formamide, a radical of the formula $SO_2NR^{56}R^{57}$, where R^{56} and R^{57} independently represent hydrogen, C_1-C_4-alkyl, formyl, C_1-C_4-alkylcarbonyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxycarbonyl, NH_2-CO or C_1-C_4-alkylaminocarbonyl, C_1-C_4-alkylaminosulfonylamino, di-C_1-C_4-alkylaminosulfonylamino, phenylsulfonylamino which may be substituted on the phenyl ring by one or two substituents selected from C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxy or halogen, or 5- or 6-membered heterocyclyl, which is optionally substituted by 1, 2 or 3 of the following radicals: OH, halogen, C_1-C_4-alkyl or phenyl, 5-membered aromatic heterocyclyl optionally bearing on the nitrogen a phenyl or naphthyl group which can optionally comprise one or two of the following radicals: OH, SO_3H, C_1-C_4-alkyl, and/or C_1-C_4-alkoxy;

Tk^1, Tk^2 independently represent a divalent aromatic radical which derives from benzene, diphenylamine, biphenyl, diphenylmethane, 2-phenylbenzimidazole, phenylsulfonylbenzene, phenylaminosulfonylbenzene, stilbene or phenylaminocarbonyl-benzene which may each optionally comprise one or more of the following radicals as substituents: SO_3H, COOH, OH, NH_2, NO_2, halogen, C_1-C_4-alkyl;

L, M, P and R independently represent a divalent aromatic radical which derives from benzene or naphthalene which may each optionally comprise one or more, for example 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5, of the following radicals as substituents: SO_3H, COOH, CN, $CONH_2$, OH, NH_2, NO_2, halogen, C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-hydroxyalkyl, carboxy-C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxy, C_1-C_4-alkylamino, C_1-C_4-dialkylamino, C_1-C_4-alkylaminocarbonyl, C_1-C_4-dialkylaminocarbonyl, C_1-C_4-alkylcarbonylamino, N-(C_1-C_4-alkylcarbonyl)-N-(C_1-C_4-alkylcarbonyl)amino, C_1-C_4-alkylaminocarbonyloxy, C_1-C_4-dialkylaminocarbonyloxy, C_1-C_4-alkylaminocarbonylamino, C_1-C_4-dialkylaminocarbonylamino, phenylaminocarbonyloxy, phenylaminocarbonylamino, C_1-C_4-alkoxycarbonylamino, C_1-C_4-hydroxy-C_1-C_4-alkylamino, carboxy-C_1-C_4-alkylamino, phenylcarbonylamino, C_1-C_4-alkylsulfonyl, hydroxy-C_1-C_4-alkylsulfonyl, C_1-C_4-alkylaminosulfonyl, C_1-C_4-alkylsulfonylamino, phenylsulfonyl, phenylsulfonylamino, formamide, a radical of the formula $SO_2NR^{56}R^{57}$, where R^{56} and R^{57} independently represent

hydrogen, C_1-C_4-alkyl, formyl, C_1-C_4-alkylcarbonyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxycarbonyl, NH_2-CO or C_1-C_4-alkylaminocarbonyl, C_1-C_4-alkylaminosulfonylamino, di-C_1-C_4-alkylaminosulfonylamino, phenylsulfonylamino which may be substituted on the phenyl ring by one or two substituents selected from C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxy or halogen, or 5- or 6-membered heterocyclyl, which is optionally substituted by 1, 2 or 3 of the following radicals: OH, halogen, C_1-C_4-alkyl or phenyl, 5-membered aromatic heterocyclyl optionally bearing on the nitrogen a phenyl or naphthyl group which can optionally comprise one or two of the following radicals: OH, SO_3H, C_1-C_4-alkyl, and/or C_1-C_4-alkoxy;

Napht[1], Napht[2] independently represent a divalent radical which derives from naphthalene and which comprises 1 or 2 hydroxysulfonyl groups and may optionally comprise 1, 2 or 3 further substituents selected from OH, NH_2, C_1-C_4-alkylamino, C_1-C_4-dialkylamino, C_1-C_4-alkylsulfonylamino, phenylsulfonylamino, 4-methylphenylsulfonylamino, C_1-C_4-alkylaminosulfonyl, di-C_1-C_4-alkylaminosulfonyl, phenylaminosulfonyl, 4-methylphenylaminosulfonyl and $NHC(O)R^x$ radicals, where R^x hydrogen, C_1-C_4-alkyl, maleyl or phenyl;

Pyr represents pyrazole-1,4-diyl which attaches through the nitrogen atom to the A group and optionally comprises one or 2 substituents selected from halogen, C_1-C_4-alkyl, hydroxyl or C_1-C_4-alkoxy;

Tr^1, Tr^2 independently represent a 1,3,5-triazine-2,4-diyl radical which optionally further comprises a halogen atom, a methyl group or a methoxy group as substituent,

and the metal complexes of these dyes.

9. A process according to any preceding claim, wherein initially the leather is treated with the aqueous float comprising at least one dye F at a pH in the range from 3 to 6.5 and then a pH of at least 7.5 is set in the float.

10. A process according to any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the dyeing is carried out as a one-stage process.

11. A process according to any preceding claim, wherein the dyeing is carried out

before retanning.

12. A process according to any preceding claim, wherein the dyeing is effected at temperatures in the range from 10 to 60°C.

13. The use of dyes F which comprise at least one alkali-activable group of the formula A as defined in claim 1 and mixtures thereof for dyeing leather at pH ≥ 7.5.

14. Dyes F of the general formulae IIa, IIIa or IVa

$$Dk^1\text{-}N{=}N\text{-}Napht^1\text{-}N{=}N\text{-}Tk^1\text{-}[N{=}N\text{-}Kk^1]_k\text{-}N{=}N\text{-}]_kDk^2 \quad \text{(IIa)}$$

$$Dk^1\text{-}N{=}N\text{-}Napht^1\text{-}N{=}N\text{-}Tk^1\text{-}N{=}N\text{-}Kk^1\text{-}N{=}N\text{-}Tk^2\text{-}N{=}N\text{-}Napht^2\text{-}N{=}N\text{-}Dk^2 \quad \text{(IIIa)}$$

$$Dk^1\text{-}N{=}N\text{-}Napht^1\text{-}N{=}N\text{-}Tk^1\text{-}N{=}N\text{-}Napht^2\text{-}N{=}N\text{-}Dk^2 \quad \text{(IVa)}$$

where Dk^1, Dk^2, $Napht^1$, $Napht^2$ and Kk^1 are each as defined above, k is 0 or 1 and where Tk^1 and Tk^2 independently represent a divalent radical which derives from biphenyl, diphenylmethane, 2-phenylbenzimidazole, phenylsulfonylbenzene, phenylaminosulfonylbenzene, diphenylamine, stilbene or phenylaminocarbonylbenzene and may optionally comprise one or more of the following radicals as substituents: SO_3H, COOH, OH, NH_2, NO_2, halogen, C_1-C_4-alkyl, although Tk^1 in formula IIa does not represent a diphenylamine-derived radical when k is = 0 and either or both of the radicals Dk^1 and Dk^2 represent a radical of the formula A as defined in claim 1.

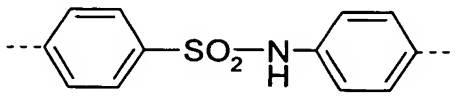
15. Dyes F of the general formula IIb

$$A\text{-}N{=}N\text{-}Napht^1\text{-}N{=}N\text{-}Tk^1\text{-}N{=}N\text{-}Kk^1\text{-}[N{=}N\text{-}Dk^2]_n \quad \text{(IIb)}$$

where A, Dk^2, $Napht^1$ and Kk^1 are each as defined above, n is 0 or 1 and where Tk^1 represents a divalent radical which derives from biphenyl, diphenylmethane, 2-phenylbenzimidazole, phenylsulfonylbenzene, phenylaminosulfonylbenzene, diphenylamine, stilbene or phenylaminocarbonylbenzene and may optionally comprise one or more of the following radicals as substituents: SO_3H, COOH, OH, NH_2, NO_2, halogen, C_1-C_4-alkyl, where Tk^1 does not represent a diphenylamine-derived radical when n is = 0 and where Dk^2 radical may also represent a radical of the formula A as defined in claim 1.

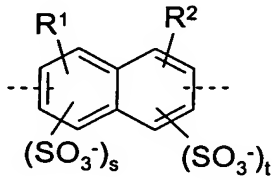
16. Dyes according to claim 14 or 15, wherein Tk^1 and/or Tk^2 in the formulae IIa, IIb,

IIIa or IVa represents a radical of the general formula



where ---- represent the bonds to the azo groups.

17. Dyes according to any one of claims 14 to 16, wherein Napht[1] and/or Napht[2] represent a bivalent radical of the general formula



(II)

where R^1 and R^2 are independently hydrogen, OH, NH_2 or $NHC(O)R^3$, where R^3 represents hydrogen, C_1-C_4-alkyl, maleyl or phenyl and at least one of R^1 and R^2 is other than hydrogen, ---- represent the bonds to the azo groups, s and t represent 0 or 1 and the s + t sum is 1 or 2.

18. Dyes according to any one of claims 14 to 17, wherein either or both of the radicals Dk^1 and Dk^2 represent one of the A1 to A12 radicals defined in claim 7.

19. Dyed leather obtainable by a dyeing process according to any one of claims to 1 to 12.

20. Leather according to Claim 19 for handwear, footwear, automobiles, apparel or furniture.